

George and John Barber Store
77-79 Main Street (Southwest
corner of Main and Compro-
mise Streets)
Annapolis
Anne Arundel County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-266

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48-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
801 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

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48-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MD-266

GEORGE AND JOHN BARBER STORE

Address: 77-79 Main Street, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County,
Maryland (Southwest corner of Main and Compromise
Streets)

Present Owner: State of Maryland

Present Occupant
and Use: City Services, Inc.
Service business, for cleaning supplies and ser-
vices. Apartment on second floor.

Statement of
Significance: The present building was used in the early 19th
century as a store for general merchandise. The
site and possibly the walks are probably those of
the Revolutionary Victualling Office which supplied
food stores to Maryland Troops.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Originally a warehouse
and/or tennament of Daniel Dulany. Confiscated and used
for Victualling Office during the Revolutionary War.
Sold by State to William Wilkins, merchant. And then to
George and John Barber, merchants.

Historic Annapolis, Inc., Blue Research Notebook, Volume
III, at Hall of Records, has more complete documentation
on this building. The following is an abstract from it.

"The lot on which 77 - 79 Main Street stands originally
included the northern end, or frame part of 143 Compro-
mise Street, was established. In a survey of 1833 the
lot was 4,664 square feet. At that time a store and brick
warehouse stood on the lot. This structure appears to be
the same building which stands on the lot. It was prob-
ably built or rebuilt circa 1807 after a fire, or between
1810 when William Wilkins sold a "lot of ground and prem-
ises to George and John Barber," and 1813 when the estate
of John T. Barber, deceased was divided among his heirs and
the aforesaid survey was made.

The land can be documented to the time William Wilkins owned it and the house he bought at the sale in 1785 of Daniel Dulany's confiscated property.

It is unlikely that the present building could be Daniel Dulany's house as William Wilkin's house burned in 1807 and replotting the area indicates a house more on the future Compromise Street. Furthermore, the brick cornice of the house and the brick moulding along the gables indicate a nineteenth century house." (C. W. Werner, 1962)

A series of ads in the Maryland Gazette preserved in the State Library, Annapolis, traces the use of the property.

- 1784 (May 27) "William Wilkins has store on dock where victualling-office lately kept."
- 1785 (April 27) Advertisement by Intendant's Office to be sold "...two warehouses on the Dock, late property of Daniel Dulany, son of Walter, confiscated. One fifth of a lot and houses near the said Dock, with several negroes, confiscated property of Daniel Dulany, Esquire, son of Daniel. Likewise the house lately occupied by Justus Siebert, deceased." (Siebert was a hair-dresser.)
- 1785 (May 4) Sale Book of confiscated British property (Land Office) page 56. A house in Annapolis confiscated property of Daniel Dulany, son of Walter, purchased to £1400 by William Wilkins.
- Abstract from the Federal Direct Tax, 1798, Maryland Historic Society, Baltimore, "William Wilkins, Church Street. Brick dwelling house, 2 stories, 38 x 22. Brick kitchen, single story, 32 x 18. 3200 square feet. \$600 assessment."
- 1803 (Oct. 13) William Wilkins sells dry goods.
- 1806 (Nov. 6) William Wilkins plans to move to Baltimore. Will sell dwelling house and lot.
- 1807 (Feb. 5) William Wilkins. Auction of store and household goods has lot of ground near dock where his house was burned. Intends to move to Baltimore.

- 1807 (May 28) "J. Hughes, watchmaker, has removed four doors above his former stand to the house lately occupied by Mr. William Wilkins."
- 1815 (Mar. 16) Barbers sell fresh clover seed, groceries. Have commenced running their packet regularly to Baltimore.
- 1816 George and John Barber. Sell summer hats, New England shoes, herring and shad, oils and paints, groceries, ground plaister, dry goods, etc. from new store.
- 1818 Packet ad of George and John Barber discusses advantage of building a new steam boat.
- 1819 Between 1816 and 1819 Barbers is still referred to as "new store."
- 1821 (Oct. 5) Barber partnership dissolved.
- 1822 (May 23) W. M. Holme and Company sells groceries, paints at former Barber store.
- 1822 (Nov. 7) Sale of packet Schooner, General Jackson, 68 tons at Barber Packet-Office.

(S. J. Rose, 1963)

The following abstracts from official records indicate the later history of this property.

- 1833 (Sept. 31) Chancery Court, Liber B151, folio 276, etc. Barber heirs petition settlement.
- 1837 (Aug. 31) Sale of Barber's property advertised, Maryland Gazette.
- 1852 (Oct. 5) A.A. Co. Land Records, Liber NHG 1, folio 490. Barber heirs convey property to Nicholas Killman for \$1,000.
- 1866-68 A.A. Co. Assessment Courthouse, Annapolis. N. Killman. 1 brick house and lot Main Street \$2,500. 1 frame house and lot Compromise Street \$600.
- 1876 A.A. Co. Assessment, Courthouse, Annapolis. Sarah Killman 1 lot Church and Compromise Street @12ff+42'69' \$864. 1 Brick House Church and Compromise Street @10ff+16'70' \$160. 1 Frame House Compromise Street \$400.

- 1890 Trustees Sale A.A. Co. Circuit Court Equity No. 1355. Advertise for sale large 2 story brick dwelling wherein late Nicholas Killman resided many years before his death. Lot adjoining with 2 story frame dwelling.
- 1904 (May 29) A.A. Co. Wills RB #1, folio 232, Mary A. Killman bequeaths all to husband, William.
- 1907 (Jan. 12) A.A. Co. Land Records GW #51, folio 306. William Killman to Thomas Tydings.
- 1925 (Sept. 22) A.A. Co. Land Records WMB No. 14, folio 279. Tydings to Sam Hyatt and wife, Ida.
- 1935 (June 7) A.A. Co. Land Records FAM 139, folio 146. Hyatts convey 1/2 interest to Phillip Hyatt and wife, Edna.
- 1949 (July 19) A.A. Co. Land Records JHH 530, folio 234. Hyatts to Fred Romero and wife.
- 1951 (Sept. 17) A.A. Co. Land Records JHH 645, folio 329. Romero to Cecil C. Knighton and wife.
- 1960 (Sept. 13) A.A. Co. Land Records GTC 1422, folio 102. Knighton to Louis M. Strauss and James C. Morton, Jr., trustees.

(O. Ridout, 1964)

2. Date of erection: Uncertain
3. Architect: No Record
4. Builder, suppliers, etc.: No Record
5. Original plans, construction, etc.: No Record
6. Alterations and additions: Present structure is essentially the same which was erected or rebuilt after William Wilkins fire of 1807. Two conflicting Maryland Gazette ads of 1807, attached herewith, make it unclear how much of Wilkins house was lost in fire. Examination of the building indicates some of the old walls left standing were built into the new structure.

7. Important old views: Forbes collection, Hall of Records, shows building, in Background labeled "Garrett's Store." Forbes collection views of lower Main Street.
- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Sale book of confiscated property of Daniel Dulany, son of Walter, to "William Wilkins, a house in Annapolis, B1400." Used during Revolutionary War as Victualling Office to supply Maryland Troops. Walls standing after fire of 1807 appear to be used in rebuilding present structure.
- C. Sources of Information:
 1. Primary and unpublished sources: Vol. III, "Blue Notebooks" of Historic Annapolis, Maryland at Hall of Records, has an extensive report of research done on this property. Files of the Maryland Gazette, State Library, Annapolis, as cited. Land Records, A. A. Co. Courthouse, as cited. Indices of community records by Historic Annapolis, Inc. at Hall of Records.
 2. Secondary and published sources: Records of Intendant of Revenue regarding food supplies for Maryland troops. (Not Indexed.) Hall of Records, Annapolis may yield further information on this building.

Prepared by Orlando Ridout
Historic Annapolis
Research Staff
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PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement:
 1. Architectural character: This early 19th century commercial building is a notable feature of the Annapolis waterfront. It was probably built for George and John T. Barber, c. 1815, as a store. Its simple lines and pleasing proportions are still evident, despite alterations.
 2. Condition of fabric: Fair
- B. Description of Exterior:
 1. Overall dimensions: Rectangular, 25'-5" by 42'. Two-and-half-stories with three bay (front) on the northeast elevation.

2. Foundations: Appears to be of large, rough-faced granite blocks painted light green which extend about 6" above grade.
3. Wall construction: Red brick laid up in American Bond, painted light green
4. Framing: Brick bearing walls with timber floor and roof framing. Some bearing walls and partitions on the first floor have been replaced by tall slender cast iron columns which apparently date from the middle of the 19th century.
5. Porches, stoops, etc.: There is a small stair of three granite steps on the northeast elevation; this stair leads to the entrance to the interior stairs to the second floor.
6. Chimneys: There are two large brick chimneys, one at each gable end (southeast and northwest).
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: First floor at east corner of building is a double door which is placed on the corner at 45 degrees to the northeast and southeast walls; this doorway probably was put in during the middle of the 19th century. Near the north corner of the building on the northeast elevation is a single doorway, approached by three steps which leads to the interior stairway to the second floor. This doorway appears to be quite old and may possibly be original.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Northeast elevation (first floor) has large modern plate glass show window. Above this window are traces of the brick arches of the original openings. (Second floor) three original large window openings with brick flat arches and simple wood trim. The lights are two-over-two and are probably not original.

Southeast elevation (first floor) has a single large window opening with a brick flat arch and simple moulded wood trim, the top half of the window has been boarded up and the panes in the bottom half have been replaced by a single large pane. The second floor has two large window openings with brick flat arches and simple wood trim, modern two-over-two lights. The attic has two smaller window openings with brick flat arches and simple wood trim two-over-two lights.